

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-10
LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12
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INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
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AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
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USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
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DEPT. FOR NEA/RA AND NEA/ARP

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ILO, PLAB, KU
SUBJECT: KUWAIT REP TO ILO DESCRIBES EVENTS AT JUNE
ILO MEETING

REF: (A) GENEVA 09855 (NOTAL), (B) STATE 038223 (NOTAL),
(C) GENEVA 08670 (NOTAL), (D) GENEVA 09921 (NOTAL).

1. SUMMARY: KUWAITI REP AT ILO CONFERENCE IN GENEVA FOUND US
TALKING POINTS (REF B) VERY USEFUL IN DISCUSSIONS WITH
MODERATE GULF ARABS AIMED AT DEVELOPING UNIFIED POSITIONS.
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THE GULF STATES' UNIFIED STAND AGAINST THE RADICALS IS A
PHENOMENON WORTH ENCOURAGING. KUWAIT WANTS US BACK IN THE
ILO AND WOULD APPRECIATE USG REACTION TO RESULTS OF ILO
CONFERENCE. END SUMMARY.

2. ABDULLA GHLOOM HUSSAIN, A SENIOR KUWAITI REPRESENTA-
TIVE TO ILO AND ASSISTANT UNDERSECRETARY AT MINISTRY OF

SOCIAL AFFAIRS AND LABOR RESPONSIBLE FOR INTERNATIONAL MATTERS, TOLD US FOLLOWING REGARDING BACKSTAGE MANEUVERING AT JUNE ILO MEETINGS IN GENEVA.

3. THE SYRIAN/LIBYAN SPONSORED RESOLUTION CONDEMNING ISRAEL CAME AS A COMPLETE SURPRISE TO GULF ARABS. WHEN TOLD OF RESOLUTION JUST PRIOR TO ITS INTRODUCTION, GULF ARABS, AT FIRST, TRIED TO DISSUADE LIBYANS AND SYRIANS FROM INTRODUCING SUCH A "COMPLICATED AND INVOLVED RESOLUTION". KUWAITI REPRESENTATIVE AND OTHER GULF ARABS LATER ARGUED THAT DIRECTOR GENERAL'S REPORT CONCERNING TREATMENT OF WORKERS IN THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES SHOULD BE DEBATED BEFORE ANY NEW RESOLUTIONS WERE PLACED BEFORE THE ILO. AFTER GREAT DEAL OF DISCUSSION IN WHICH QATAR REPRESENTATIVE ACTED AS SPOKESMAN FOR THE "MODERATE" GULF ARABS, LIBYA AND SYRIA AGREED THAT RESOLUTION WOULD BE DISCUSSED IN COMMITTEE BUT NOT RAISED BEFORE THE PLENARY. AFTER THIS "UNDERSTANDING" THE COMMITTEE PASSED FAVORABLY ON THE RESOLUTION, THE AFRICAN MEMBERS GIVING SUPPORT.

4. COMMITTEE SUCCESS EMBOLDENED THE SYRIANS, CONTRARY TO THE UNDERSTANDING, TO PLACE THE RESOLUTION BEFORE THE FULL CONFERENCE. WHEN THE GULF ARABS COMPLAINED ABOUT THIS DOUBLE-CROSS AND REMINDED THE SYRIANS OF THE AGREEMENT, THE SYRIANS WERE UNREPENTANT AND REPORTEDLY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ASKED THAT THE KUWAITIS FORMALLY REQUEST WITHDRAWING THE RESOLUTION FROM CONSIDERATION. THE SYRIANS PROMISED TO AGREE TO SUCH A REQUEST.

5. HUSSEIN, AS KUWAITI GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVE CONSULTED WITH OTHER GULF ARABS AND DECIDED THE RISKS OF A FORMAL WITHDRAWAL REQUEST WERE TOO GREAT, IN TERMS OF A FURTHER DOUBLE-CROSS AND BAD PUBLICITY. INSTEAD THE GULF ARABS SIMPLY INFORMED THE SYRIANS/LIBYANS THAT WHILE THEY WOULD VOTE FOR THE RESOLUTION IN CONFERENCE THEY DID NOT BELIEVE IT WOULD PASS NOR WOULD THEY ACTIVELY LOBBY FOR IT. WHEN THE ULTIMATE DEFEAT OF THE RESOLUTION IN CONFERENCE OCCURRED, KUWAITIS WERE NEITHER SURPRISED NOR TERRIBLY DISPLEASED.

6. IN INFORMAL GULF ARAB COORDINATION MEETINGS THROUGHOUT THIS PERIOD, THE KUWAIT REPRESENTATIVE ARGUED IT WAS NECESSARY TO MEET SOME OF THE OBJECTIONS RAISED BY THE US WHEN IT WITHDREW FROM THE ILO. TO THIS END HUSSAIN PROVIDED COPIES OF "SANITIZED VERSION" OF REF B (GIVEN TO HIM BY ECONOFF IN KUWAIT) TO GULF ARAB REPS, WHO DISCUSSED IT AT GREAT LENGTH. HUSSAIN TOLD US DOCUMENT WAS VERY USEFUL IN

STRENGTHENING ROLE OF MODERATE ARABS IN INTER-ARAB COUNCILS.

7. ACTION REQUESTED: HUSSAIN WOULD APPRECIATE HEARING
MORE OF WASHINGTON'S REACTION TO ILO CONFERENCE. HE
WISHES TO DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO FACILITATE RETURN OF
THE US TO THE ILO, AND WOULD FIND US REACTION USEFUL.
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